

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE NETWORK
Children, Family & Futures

HIGH DESERT PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS

MINUTES

December 8, 2003
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center
17800 Outer Highway 18
Apple Valley, CA

In Attendance:

Mary Jaquish	First 5 San Bernardino	mjaquish@cfc.sbcounty.gov	909-386-7706
Stacy Iverson	First 5 San Bernardino	siverson@cfc.sbcounty.gov	909-386-7706
Ed Rowe	Children's Network	erowe@hss.sbcounty.gov	909-387-8938
Brenda Keeling	VVCSC	vvsc@charterinternet.com	760-243-9646
Vici Nagel	HDCC		760-949-2930
Len Sandman	HDCF		760-241-4287
Michele Girard	Public Health	mgirard@dph.sbcounty.gov	760-956-4414
Julian Weaver	SBCSS		909-386-2902
Barbara C. Cook	SBSAS		760-243-4052
Claire Burrus	"A Better Way" D.V.		760-955-8010
Kristine Gunter	Probation	Kristine.Gunter@hesperia.k12.ca.us	760-559-7644
Katie Edwards	Ameri Corps *Vista HUD	katieedw@hotmail.com	760-244-4411
Beth Dorey	Ameri Corps *Vista HUD	holiegirl@hotmail.com	760-244-4411
Marilena Campfield	CHDP	mcampfield@dph.sbcounty.gov	909-387-3052
Martha Huff	CHDP	mhuff@dph.sbcounty.gov	909-387-3130
Robert Decker	Clear View Treatment Center		909-338-9849
Rita Downs	Behavioral Health	rdowns@dbh.sbcounty.gov	760-955-2439
Lupe Forsang	Oasis Bonding Center		760-256-9530
Virginia Barron	SBCSS-State Preschool		760-244-6151
Michelle Gaona	Catholic Charities		760-242-2311
Debra Guzman	Desert Mtn. FICS		760-245-4695
Tammy Williams	Children's Network	tttwilliams@hss.sbcounty.gov	909-387-8966
Susan Melanson	Children's Network	smelanson@hss.sbcounty.gov	909-387-5394

1. Welcome and Introductions

Self-Introductions were made.

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the Agenda other than changing the order of items due to technical difficulties.

3. Approval of November Minutes

The minutes will stand as approved.

4. Roundtable Discussion

Mary Jaquish of First 5 San Bernardino reported: She mentioned that the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) is due on Wednesday, December 11th. Grants from SAMSHA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) are on the website for review. There will be another training in San Bernardino or Ontario soon, she will send out an e-mail. The focus for these trainings will be families and children with mental health illnesses. Mary asked the group if anyone had attended the workshop with David Mills and no one had attended. She has seen the materials regarding school funding and reducing lunch vouchers and is interested in getting a copy if anyone comes across one. She is hoping to bring more workshops to the high desert. She raffled off some lamps donated by the Children's Fund to those at the meeting.

Stacy Iverson of First 5 San Bernardino reported: The strategic plan was approved on November 19th and it will be posted on the website sometime this week.

Brenda Keeling of Victor Valley Community Service Council reported: Brenda spoke about the Return to Stars Poster Contest. Five children in this county won and are receiving recognition. Brenda works with the High Desert Cultural Center and announced the Christmas show will be December 19th called Shenanigans. They have been able to pick up lots of youth volunteers and are looking forward to getting more direction for the youth.

Vici Nagel of High Desert Community Coalition reported: They are currently developing a network for family resource centers. There are several in the high desert. Some stand-alone; for instance, Anthony Chambers and some are located in churches. They are developing a network among them including Riverside and Perris Valley. She has attended several meetings including the first core-planning meeting and is looking for more to serve on the planning council. The next meeting will be December 18th at 8:00 am at Anthony Chamber's place. This will not serve as a networking meeting but only as a core group for planning. If you are interested please come on the 18th.

Michelle Girard of Public Health reported: Their program works with pregnant and parenting teens and they are currently looking for gifts and gift baskets for them.

Claire Burrus of A Better Way Domestic Violence reported: This is their busiest time of the year and the shelter is full. They had an influx with all the fire victims and they are still serving them. Lens Crafters has also provided free exams, lenses, and frames for their clients (this is not broadcasted information).

Robert Decker of Clear View Treatment Center reported: They are close to opening two more homes for teen substance abusers that are on probation. They will offer a 9-month program, which will start up in January or February. There have been lots of leads for after care but not much progress. **Julian Weaver asked that they come do a presentation at the Gangs and Drugs Task Force and they agreed.**

Rita Downs of Behavioral Health reported: They have experienced a new interest in treatment for children. They are working with DCS (Department of Children's Services) to come up with a program to do a mental health screening for every child over 6 months old.

They have started in Highland and the high desert. DBH (Department of Behavioral Health) and DCS have started the program but are concerned with possible budget cuts.

Lupe Forsang of Oasis Bonding Center reported: She is a bonding and breast-feeding instructor. Their program is accepting participants for a 10-day program starting on December 13th ending on December 23rd.

Virginia Barron of SBCSS State Preschool reported: They are winding down now for Christmas break. The assistance league has provided clothing and shoes for 50 families.

Michelle Gaona of Catholic Charities reported: They are not accepting any appointments right now but are looking to take appointments in January. They are taking children to a Christmas party on the 13th. They are a small group who provides case management for families year round to serve the needs of the family. They can offer general information, a Thanksgiving/Christmas program or Parenting classes.

Debra Guzman of Desert Mountain FICS reported: They have implemented a program called “Why Try” (www.whytry.com). The program is for at risk youth and adults. They have been through training but will not be implemented until January. It will be located in schools and prisons addressing anger management. It will teach to deal with behavioral problems at school or at home. They are having their annual holiday party December 18th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Desert Mountain FICS. It is open to families, and the county departments of Probation and Behavioral Health were invited.

Barbara Cook of San Bernardino Sexual Assault Services reported: During December they give out Christmas trees and toys. It is a major program that families work closely with.

Susan Melanson of Children’s Network reported: She has been putting the final touches on the Annual Report and it will be ready to go to print. It is filled with data. There are Holiday Safety brochures available for distribution in the Children’s Network office and on the Resource table in the back.

Ed Rowe of Children’s Network reported: A lot has been going on in Big Bear with the relocation and evacuations from the fire. The Board of Supervisors and Children’s Network Policy Council have asked that they start the Transition Aged Youth Council again. There are at least 25 children from the ages of 15-18 out of the CSOC (Children’s System of Care) and the ILP (Independent Living Program). The youth need assistance to lead them to independence.

Adolfo Gonzales of Public Health reported: He works with the nutrition program, “5 a Day Power Play”, a campaign that dates back to 1995. The objective of this program is to reach children from ages 9 to 11 (4th and 5th graders) to increase fruits and vegetable consumption to beat childhood obesity. Their program is completely free and they work with schools, CBO’s, YMCA, Redlands School District Office, etc...The ultimate goal of this program is to change the eating and exercise habits of young children so they stay healthy for life. Materials: A cookbook made with kids in mind.

5. Guest Speakers: Judy Morris and Dennis Morris of Moses House Ministries

Anna is replacing Judy who is home very ill.

The presentation was geared toward informing every one of their services and history. They are a ministry committed to housing young pregnant women in Christian homes in an effort to teach and change their life. It demonstrates to the girls to learn by example. Some services provided include:

- Housing with Caring Families
- Crossings and Miriam's Storehouse
- Mentors of moms
- Abundant Grace (pregnancy loss support) (760) 247-5354
- Loving Option Adoption Network (909) 927-6540
- Parenting Classes
- Free Pregnancy Tests (self administered)
- Volunteer Opportunities

They are short on families and if anyone is interested in housing a teen pregnant girl please contact their office at 1-866-60 MOSES.

Questions and Comments

Q: What kind of screening do you do for families and what kind of training is provided before you can take a girl in?

A: The families are Christians in good standing with the church and the pastor usually knows them well. There is a background check with family and friends. If there is any type of red flag they take a serious look at it. There is a training program that the family must go through before they are able to participate.

Comment: There has been a big surge of 15-year-old pregnancies; there was a 16 year old who had a baby three weeks ago. The sad thing is, these girls don't know how much work it really is to have a baby. It was suggested that a program be started where these young mothers go into schools and do presentations on how hard it really is and focus on the long-term plan.

6. **Next Meeting Date:** **January 12, 2004 9:00 am**
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center
17800 Outer Highway 18, Apple Valley

The speaker in January will be Brain Thomson with an overview of the child welfare redesign and how the new system will work and how they are going from CPS to a team focus. They need input and want everyone's participation, don't miss it!

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Williams, Children's Network
High Desert Partnership for Kids Recording Secretary

TGW/lmm